



2008 Annual Report



Letter from the Administration

Dear Members of City Council, Recreation Commission Members and Citizens,

It is my honor and privilege to present to you the 2008 Cincinnati Recreation Commission’s Annual Report.

As I reflect upon the events of the past year, I am heartened with the realization that the success our department continues to achieve is driven significantly by the outstanding and dedicated staff whom I have the pleasure of working with everyday. Their commitment to the quality of life of our citizens by offering a broad range of leisure and informal educational service is simply excellent.

In our 2007 CRC Annual Report we described a complex world becoming smaller and more challenging each day. We discussed how important strategic planning would be for CRC, especially being a major community service enterprise and in a world experiencing extraordinary change in a high technological environment.

Little did we realize that before the end of 2008 we would experience an economic shift that is currently felt world wide. Challenges we now find ourselves faced with will not last forever. We intend to meet whatever challenges lie ahead by continuing to provide the Cincinnati Community with outstanding health, wellness and leisure services.

We will complete and implement the strategic planning process with community and stakeholders’ input and improve our community’s recreation facilities and grounds as the funding levels allow.

As we stand on the threshold of this new era, we find comfort in the fact that our department is comprised of the best talent this city has to offer. Our people are dedicated and motivated to serve. We are united in purpose and spirit throughout this great city.

Norman C. Merrifield, Ed.D.
Recreation Director



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Cincinnati Recreation Commission Digital Quilt

In 2008, CRC created a project unlike any other – the Digital Quilt. Youth from each center were invited to take pictures of their neighborhood with digital cameras. Eighty (80) digital cameras were distributed to 25 CRC centers for this project. Many wonderful photos (1000+ images) were taken by 170 youth ages 7-13. When the photos are displayed together, the effect is a large picture of Cincinnati - a digital quilt. Twenty-seven (27) communities throughout Cincinnati were represented.

A sharing session at LeBlond Recreation Center brought children together from all recreation centers to choose their favorite images of each neighborhood. When the best photos were selected, local post-production artists helped create the large scale, Power Point projection that was publicly exhibited throughout the city.

The Digital Quilt program created a project which brought together some of Cincinnati’s diverse communities. Because of this community connection, public artwork was created that reflects the artistic and creative skills of CRC youth. The Digital Quilt project would not have been possible without the support of the following sponsors: Good Samaritan Hospital, Summerfair Cincinnati, the Fine Arts Fund and the CRC Foundation.

Enjoy some photos taken by the youth as they are integrated into the quilt patterns on the following pages. To further the digital quilt / CRC theme, the quilt pattern that makes up the theme of the report is coincidentally called the “Cincinnati Seven Hills” pattern.



Ability

Cyclists Donate to CRC

CRC's Therapeutics division (TR) hosted the Push America Team at the Pleasant Ridge Recreation Center. This team is a project of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity's Journey of Hope. The members biked from San Francisco to Washington, DC while meeting with organizations that advocate for persons with disabilities.

Push America provides service, promotes volunteerism and fosters education and awareness on behalf of persons with disabilities nationwide. During their stop in Cincinnati, the Push America Team presented TR with a grant of \$750 to fund and accessible wheelchair.



Therapeutic Recreation Wins Award

CRC's Division of Therapeutic Recreation (TR) was a first-time winner of the American Therapeutic Recreation Association's Organizational Award. This award is given to an organization or institution for their contribution to the field of therapeutic recreation.

TR was nominated for this award by other professionals in the field because it leads the way in the practice of therapeutic recreation. TR supports therapeutic recreation professionals and employees while advocating for client needs.

Therapeutic Recreation Turns 40!

For 40 years, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's Therapeutic Recreation Division (TR) has offered programs that meet the needs and special interests of individuals who have mental, physical, learning and emotional disabilities. CRC is nationally recognized as an advocate for the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all recreation programs.

TR provides both adapted and inclusive activities such as aquatics, fitness, social gatherings, bowling leagues, wheelchair sports, instructional and team sports, crafts, dances and special events.



Therapeutic Recreation
1968 **40 Years of Fun!** 2008
Cincinnati Recreation Commission

Drew's Big Give Donates Toys at Dunham

Drew Friend, a five-year-old boy, decided to donate his birthday gifts to a family who would enjoy some new toys. That one act of kindness has evolved into Drew's Big Give. In July, at the Dunham Recreation Center, Drew's Big Give gathered toys to be donated and used by children and teens that attend CRC's inclusive summer day camps. The toys were used in the children's summer program for therapeutic play and just plain fun.

Thanks for helping others, Drew!



CRC Teens Receive Health and Fitness Education

Cincinnati Recreation Commission partnered with the Hamilton County Special Olympics to pilot a health-promotion program called ENERGY (Education on Nutrition, Exercise and Recreation for a Growing You). The first-year program offers health and fitness education to teens with cognitive impairment and an inclination toward obesity. The program helps participants make smarter, healthier decisions in their everyday lives.

In Summer 2008, participants met at Dunham Recreation Center three times per week for 12 weeks. Each participant was exposed to three ENERGY components - physical fitness, nutrition and independence. The program was modeled after the National Center for Physical Activity and Disability curriculum on physical fitness.



Achievability

CRC Director Receives Award

CRC's director, Dr. Norman Merrifield, was recognized by the Indiana University School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER). The Willard W. Patty Distinguished Alumni Award is presented annually by HPER to graduates demonstrating outstanding personal and professional achievement. Dr. Merrifield, a 2007 recipient of the award, was presented with the honor in 2008.

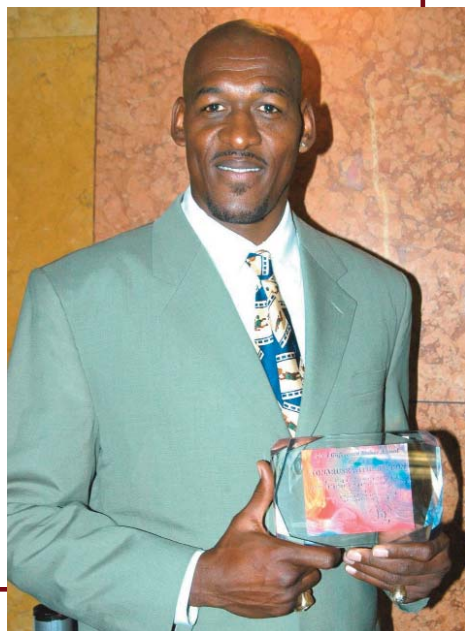
Dr. Merrifield received a BA and MA from Indiana University in Recreation and Park Administration and a doctorate in Adult Education also from Indiana University. Prior to joining CRC in 2007, he served as director of the Parks and Recreation Department in El Paso, Texas.

CRC Employee Makes a Difference!

In October, Tonaruse "Spoon" Witherspoon received the 2008 Duke Energy Children's Museum Difference Maker Award as a Community Leader.

Spoon has been with CRC since 1994 and consistently uses athletics to make a difference in the lives of CRC youth. He has spent long hours and dedicated his career to developing programs that teach children sportsmanship, teamwork, self esteem and life skills.

Congratulations Spoon, and thank you for all your hard work!



Billboards Build Ability Awareness

CRC's Division of Therapeutic Recreation promoted ability awareness by securing 12 billboards for the month of April 2008. These billboards were strategically placed throughout the city as a reminder to consider people as people first - not as their disability.

DisAbility Awareness Month
People First.

Cincinnati Recreation Commission
Division of Therapeutic Recreation
www.CincyRec.org/TR



CRC Publishes The Guide

The Guide, CRC's informational magazine, details CRC life - what CRC is and what CRC does. CRC published *The Guide* to be used for marketing and promotional purposes such as city-wide trade shows. Copies of *The Guide* are available upon request.

CRC Wins OPRA Award

Cincinnati Recreation Commission received high honors from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) with its Superior OPRA Award. CRC received the award for DVD documentation of CRC's annual event - RiverTrek. RiverTrek is an outdoor adventure and 5-day/4-night, 75-mile canoe experience along the Little Miami.

The DVD of this adventure for teens captured the essence of the journey's excitement, hard work and teamwork while recording as much of the trip as possible. The RiverTrek DVD was broadcast on local cable television to encourage interest among other teens in the city.



Westwood Town Hall Goes Green

The summer campers at Westwood Town Hall (WTH) were exposed to activities and guest speakers which reinforced the theme "Going Green" and introduced the importance of recycling. The green-themed day camp began with a visit from Columbus, Ohio's COSI (Center of Science and Industry). COSI's traveling "Going Green" program touched on areas including renewable and nonrenewable energy resources, energy as heat, motion and electricity.

A representative from Rumpke Recycling also spoke to the campers about recycling efforts and introduced their recycling mascot "Binny."

Activities at WTH included expanding the current paper recycling program and implementing an aluminum can recycling effort. Approximately 12,400 cans were collected by the daycampers throughout the summer.



Seniors Enjoy Being Olympians

CRC Senior athletes took part in the 28th year of the Southwest Ohio Senior Olympics. This fun and challenging program promotes healthy lifestyle choices and is open to athletes ages 50 and older. 2008 saw a total of 734 athletes who took part in 65 sporting events such as golf, swimming, tennis, and track & field.



Seniors Recognized at Hall of Fame Ceremony

CRC hosted the 41st annual Senior Citizen Hall of Fame celebration. Thirty-four (34) senior citizens from throughout Cincinnati were inducted. Former Cincinnati Reds player Dave Parker handed out awards and vice mayor David Crowley and CRC Director Norman Merrifield had brief remarks.



Community

CRC Commissions Artwork

"Water's Edge" is a work of environmental art which consists of painted steel panels with laser cut designs based on the imagery of simplified plant forms. The images are incorporated into the fencing at the Dunham Recreation Complex's Otto Armleder Memorial Regional Aquatic Center.

The silhouetted images add to the concession and pool areas and generate shadows that extend the design to the deck. The artwork is the first piece in CRC's public artwork collection that is functional and integral to the design of a facility. It is also the first piece that was directly commissioned by CRC.



CRC Opens Two Aquatic Centers

CRC opened two new aquatic centers thanks to the Otto Armleder Family Trust. These are the Otto Armleder Memorial Family Aquatic Center at Hirsch Recreation Center and the Otto Armleder Memorial Regional Aquatic Center at Dunham Recreation Complex. Both aquatic centers provide family-oriented water facilities and attract many crowds for summer swimming. The aquatic centers are filled with amenities such as zero-depth entry, water geysers and slides along with many play and spray features.

Both projects are part of a series of recreation facilities built by the Otto Armleder Family Trust. In addition to the two aquatic centers, the Trust is also responsible for financing the future renovations of Sawyer Point's Concourse Fountain.



Lindner Family Tennis Pavilion is Opened

In addition to CRC's pool grand openings this summer, the rededication of the Lindner Family Tennis Pavilion at Sawyer Point opened eight renovated courts, providing even higher quality tennis play opportunities for tennis enthusiasts.



Building of Accessible Ball Field Begins

CRC and the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Miracle League Foundation joined together to break ground on a completely accessible ball field at Dunham Recreation Complex. The field will accommodate wheelchairs and other walking assistance devices and will be ready for play in spring 2009. This Miracle League field represents the City's first custom-designed, adapted baseball field.



CRC Creates a Playground with Bengals

On a sunny day in October, 250 volunteers, including 35 Cincinnati Bengals players, gathered to spruce up a CRC park in College Hill. The volunteers built a youth activity course which encourages physical fitness and social skills.

Corporate volunteers from across the Cincinnati area partnered with CRC and the Marvin Lewis Community Fund to paint fences, spread mulch, install playground equipment and create youth basketball courts - all while having a great time giving to the community.



Unity

Flag Football Team Plays in Nationals

The CRC 12-14 year old flag football team, and the 11 and younger team, dubbed the "Cincinnati All-Stars," played their hearts out at the regional NFL Flag Football competition in Chicago. The Cincinnati All-Stars won the regional tournament in October and went on to the championships in Orlando to play for the NFL Flag Football National Title.

For many team members, this was their first trip out of town and away from home. As the team prepared to depart for the nationals, they enjoyed a send-off from the mayor. The team finished 2nd in the country and their efforts were captured by ESPN2 as highlights of their game were broadcast during December.



Millvale Families Enjoy Extra Snacks

CRC's Spring Break Sacks provided extra snacks for Millvale families. CRC's Millvale Recreation Center partnered with Fay Apartments and Childhood Food Solutions for this project. Senior volunteers and Millvale youth bagged non-perishable groceries for more than 1,200 children at Millvale and Roll Hill schools. The children then took the food items home during their spring break to supplement their own food supply. Donors included Pipken's Produce and Childhood Food Solutions.

CRC Begins Girls Only Program

The Girl's Only program, started in Spring 2008, provides active programming opportunities for girls. Activities include team building exercises, flag football games, skating and bowling parties, laser tag, swimming outings and more. Each event is well attended with 60-65 participants. The girls enjoy the programming as well as the camaraderie of girls from diverse Cincinnati neighborhoods.



CRC's RiverTrek Spells Adventure in 2008

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission offered 30 teens a unique outdoor adventure - RiverTrek 2008. RiverTrek is a journey of self discovery that includes a 5-day / 4-night canoe adventure along the Little Miami River. The teens came from all over the city and various socio-economic backgrounds. RiverTrekkers learn camping, canoeing, kayaking, leadership and teamwork skills on this 75-mile trip.



CRC Offers Youth Employment Opportunities

Cincinnati Recreation Commission teamed with the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program to offer three opportunities for seasonal employment. More than 85 youth were employed through these initiatives.

- The Junior Counselor Program gives 14 year olds work experience before they enter the business world. Junior Counselors were mentored by a CRC staff person at a neighborhood recreation center.
- Recreation Employment Corp employed 15-17 year olds while offering interview and workplace communication workshops. These provided participants with on-the-job training through an internship and shadowing program.
- The Green Team Program provided entry-level training for young adults in the CRC Outdoor Maintenance Division.





Sawyer Point Celebrates 20 Years

For 20 years, Sawyer Point has provided venues, landscapes and memories for millions of visitors who have enjoyed this outstanding riverfront facility. Sawyer Point is located along the shore of the Ohio River just south of downtown Cincinnati.

This mile-long linear park features many different spaces serving all segments of the region's population. Sawyer Point has hosted events such as Riverfest, the All-American Birthday Party and Kids' Fest.

Along with a unique design, it features eye-catching landscaping, a performance pavilion, concessions, outdoor tennis and sand volleyball courts, a world-class playground, a dynamic water feature, and many other attractions.



Bush Center Renovated

The Myron B. Bush Recreation Center underwent a \$2 million dollar renovation. Renovations to the Walnut Hills center included a remodel of the interior and installation of a new HVAC system. The remodel also covered a building addition to accommodate an elevator. This made the building completely accessible and ADA compliant.

Cincinnati Recreation Commission centers are a vital component of Cincinnati communities and they help to maintain a high standard for Cincinnati residents' quality of life. Neighborhood recreation centers continue to be a valuable source for health and wellness, social interaction and community involvement. CRC centers offer quality programming for any age or ability.



CRC's Olympic Day Means Fun

The First Annual Olympic Day was held at Dunham Recreation Center, in Price Hill, in August. More than 500 youth, ages 5-14, from eight (8) recreation centers competed in co-ed games, activities and events throughout the day. Each child competed in the Therapeutic Recreation challenge which gave the participants a greater understanding of what it means to have a physical disability. Complete with opening and closing ceremonies, CRC's Olympic Day was fun for all - especially the children from Hartwell Recreation Center who were the Olympic champions of the day.



Recreation and Park Day Celebrated at Sawyer Point

In July, hundreds of people gathered at Sawyer Point to enjoy CRC's annual Recreation and Park Day as part of National Park and Recreation Month. The celebration included face painting, obstacle courses, local music and more from the CRC recreation centers and community partners. Thanks to CRC summer camps and the following participating agencies, this year's Recreation and Park Day was one of the best!

- Cincinnati Park Board
- Cincinnati Police
- Hamilton County Park Board
- Taft/National Park Service
- No Child Left Inside



Programming

Introduction

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) provides recreational and cultural activities for Cincinnatians of all ages and abilities. CRC's services can be broken down to include programming and support. The following pages describe and detail CRC services.

Athletics

The Athletics Division provides Cincinnati residents with fun, safe and quality programs in friendly, community-based environments.

Whether it's a sport in the gym or on the ball field, CRC's athletic programs meet the needs of all Cincinnatians and enrich their lives through physical and recreational leagues. A series of 233 ball fields, 6 sand volleyball courts, 125 tennis and 90 basketball courts offer hours of enjoyment for all.

Aquatics and Pools

CRC's award-winning Aquatics Division provides fun, safe and quality aquatic programs for residents and visitors. CRC operates a mixture of 33 outdoor deep- and shallow-water pools, 3 indoor pools, 1 sprayground and 1 fountain.

Neighborhood pools offer hours of water fun, double as water classrooms and even provide summer jobs. During the summer season, CRC aquatic facilities provide hours of open swim and programming opportunities.

CRC Recreation Centers

CRC Recreation Centers serve as focal points for health and wellness, community involvement and social interaction. Cincinnati Recreation Commission has 26 centers located throughout Cincinnati to provide recreational and cultural activities for all neighbors and citizens. Neighborhood recreation centers continue to be a vital component of Cincinnati communities and they help to maintain a high standard for Cincinnati residents' quality of life.

Seniors

At our centers, we know learning never ends and having a good time doesn't stop when you're young. CRC senior centers and clubs offer a wide selection of programs for those aged 50 and older such as trips, aerobics, sports and dance – something to fit every lifestyle. As part of the CRC family, seniors can play while learning something new or just relax at Cincinnati Recreation Commission neighborhood centers.

Sawyer Point

Sawyer Point provides recreational and cultural activities for the entire Greater Cincinnati community. The Park provides a venue for citizens to enhance their personal health and cultural awareness. Programs at Sawyer Point bring residents together to enrich and improve their quality of life.

Opened during Cincinnati's 200th anniversary celebration in 1988, Sawyer Point is a mile-long linear park with eye-catching landscapes accenting the Procter & Gamble Performance Pavilion which hosts many free summer concerts. Also in the park are amenities such as outdoor tennis and sand volleyball courts, an accessible playground and concessions.

Sawyer Point is the home of the Showboat *Majestic*, a 75-year-old showboat which is permanently moored within the park at Cincinnati's Public Landing.

Therapeutics

Created in 1968, the CRC Therapeutic Recreation Division (TR) is nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in programs for individuals with disabilities. The programs offered by TR meet the needs and interests of individuals with mental, physical, learning and emotional disabilities. All individuals are invited to participate in any CRC program.

Adapted and inclusive activities include aquatics, fitness, social gatherings, bowling leagues, instructional and team sports, wheelchair sports and crafts. Enjoy special outings, movies, pizza nights and Miracle League Baseball.

Youth and Family Services

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission recognizes the importance of fostering youth development in leadership roles. The Youth and Family Services Division (Y&FS) works with CRC staff to identify trends in recreation and seek alternative sources of revenue.

Y&FS provides outlets for youth employment such as the Recreation Employment Corps, the Green Team and the Junior Counselor program. Other Y&FS programs include the Mayor's Breakfast for Youth, RiverTrek and the Teen Volunteer Recognition Dinner. Division staff members serve as CRC liaisons to youth-servicing agencies and as mentors to CRC youth.

Support

Design and Communications

The Design and Communications Division provides graphic, marketing, video and communications support for all CRC divisions. The Design office promotes CRC through image development, printed pieces, design standardization and branding strategy as well as accurate delivery of the CRC message.

The Communications office provides press releases and monitors the approximately \$1 million in free television advertising that CRC receives annually. The office creates documentary and recruitment videos to project a positive CRC image through local broadcast outlets.

Financial Management

The Financial Management Division provides CRC with a comprehensive financial management program to support CRC's goals and objectives. The Division prepares and monitors CRC's \$27 million, all-funds operating budget.

The Financial Management Division captures all functions within CRC's business and accounting services. The Division assists all other CRC programs in achieving their performance targets.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Division provides the support necessary to ensure delivery of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission's services. This division provides core training and works with personnel on all levels.

CRC's Human Resources reflects a broad range of personnel-related services. Human Resources staff members work with all Cincinnati Recreation Commission divisions and provide assistance as needed.

Maintenance

The Facility and Grounds Maintenance Divisions are crucial to keeping CRC's recreation centers open and safe on a daily basis. The Facility Maintenance Division maintains the safe structure of CRC facilities, while the Grounds Maintenance Division provides safe playgrounds, athletic fields and recreation sites.

Facility Maintenance manages trades such as electrical, HVAC, roofing, carpentry, plumbing, painting, masonry and glasswork. Additionally, this division maintains a network of 26 neighborhood centers and 38 aquatic facilities. Grounds Maintenance performs duties such as grass cutting, trash pick-up, playground equipment repair, as well as athletic field and general maintenance.

Technical Services

The Technical Services Division guides and administers the capital improvement program for the Cincinnati Recreation Commission and provides safe and attractive recreation facilities.

The Division administers all activities related to CRC's capital budget. Capital improvements and projects range from simple replacement of capital equipment to acquisition and development of new recreation opportunities.



Accountability

Statement of Revenues & Expenditures

for the Year Ending 12.31.08

2008

	Revenue	Expenditures*	2008 Operating Budget	
West Region/TR	\$ 743,833	\$ 3,546,516	General Funds	\$ 15,535,220
East Region	\$ 992,525	\$ 3,288,461	Restricted Funds	\$ 4,246,256
Central Region	\$ 810,450	\$ 3,195,965	Enterprise Funds	\$ 6,185,965
Maintenance	—	\$ 3,557,129	Federal Grants	\$ 300,000
Golf	\$ 6,486,271	\$ 6,217,974	Debt Service	\$ 285,000
Athletics/Aquatics	\$ 781,873	\$ 2,774,660	Total Operating Budget	\$ 26,552,440
Waterfront	\$ 691,315	\$ 1,445,627		
Administration	\$ 49,389	\$ 1,444,735		
Total	\$ 10,555,656	\$ 25,471,067	2008 Capital Budget	
Donations	\$ 303,357	\$ 212,234	Recreation Facilities Renovation	\$ 1,680,200
Capital Projects		\$ 9,942,001	Outdoor Facilities Renovation	\$ 1,706,000
			Athletics Facilities Renovation	\$ 683,000
			Compliance with ADA	\$ 100,000
			Total Capital Budget	\$ 4,169,200

*Includes year-end encumbrances

2007

	Revenue	Expenditures*	2007 Operating Budget	
West Region/ TR	\$ 706,800	\$ 2,950,584	General Funds	\$ 15,911,960
East Region	\$ 959,600	\$ 2,985,075	Restricted Funds	\$ 4,135,000
Central Region	\$ 794,400	\$ 3,297,254	Enterprise Funds	\$ 5,898,910
Maintenance	—	\$ 5,757,202	Federal Grants	\$ 250,000
Golf	\$ 6,552,200	\$ 6,062,263	Debt Service	\$ 325,480
Athletics/Aquatics	\$ 648,500	\$ 2,067,238	Total Operating Budget	\$ 26,521,350
Waterfront	\$ 765,100	\$ 967,852		
Administration	\$ 65,600	\$ 1,866,085	2007 Capital Budget	
Total	\$ 10,492,200	\$ 25,953,553	Information Technology Upgrades	\$ 130,000
Donations	\$ 342,919	\$ 373,109	Recreation Facilities Renovation	\$ 2,365,200
Capital Projects		\$ 12,079,835	Outdoor Facilities Renovation	\$ 455,000
			Athletics Facilities Renovation	\$ 886,000
			Compliance with ADA	\$ 100,000
			Total Capital Budget	\$ 3,936,200

*Includes year-end encumbrances

THANK YOU
to the people of Cincinnati
for your loyal support and participation.



City of Cincinnati

Mark Mallory, Mayor
David C. Crowley, Vice Mayor
Jeff Berding, Council Member
Chris Bortz, Council Member
Y. Laketa Cole, Council Member
Greg Harris, Council Member
Leslie Ghiz, Council Member
Chris Monzel, Council Member
Roxanne Qualls, Council Member
Cecil Thomas, Council Member
John Cranley, Council Member (2008)
Milton Dohoney, Jr., City Manager

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Recreation programs and facilities are open to all citizens regardless of race, gender, color, religion, nationality or disability.

CRC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to supporting the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Please call your local center or CRC's InfoLine at 513-352-4000 if you require any accommodations.

Cincinnati Recreation Commission

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Steve Pacella, Superintendent
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Mission Statement

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission is dedicated to providing recreational and cultural activities for all people in our neighborhoods and the whole community. We believe that by enhancing people's personal health and wellness, we strengthen and enrich the lives of our citizens and build a spirit of community in our City.